

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

As a veteran teacher of over 20 years, I cannot emphasize enough how important this legislation is. I have witnessed positions going unfilled and teachers are stressed to the max. I have never seen so many teachers leave their jobs MIDYEAR. New teachers are not making it past 4 years before leaving the profession. We need to attract and retain talented teachers. The COVID credit is imperative to retain our most experienced teachers. The burn out is real and personally speaking, the COVID credit would entice me to stay in the classroom. I am certified in two areas of shortage, special education and math. We are in desperate need of special education teachers in our middle school, as teachers are covering unfilled positions. I see teachers in tears DAILY because they cannot give their students their best because teachers are being pulled in so many directions. It is unsustainable. PLEASE PASS THIS LEGISLATION.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

